

# I. Transport Notes—Prisoner, Medical and Other

Objective 1: How is this currently handled—policies, procedures, networks, etc.?

- Iowa
  - Prisoner
    - Polk
      - Go out on ops channels until they are out of range.
      - State number of prisoners and destination.
      - Used to rely on EDACs
        - Still do when it is available.
      - RACOM customers can still use EDACS to communication back to home base.
      - LEA is used.
      - Maps are used to demonstrate where coverage exists for a given network.
      - Have to rely on a handbook if something goes awry.
      - VHF and 700 MHz radios in some transport vehicles.
    - Iowa Co
      - Iowa law aid.
        - Never had to ask for help, but may call into local dispatch centers to relay reports from the field of stranded motorists, deer hits, etc.
    - Dallas
      - Similar to Polk
      - Law Aid (VLAW 31)
      - Cell phones so drivers can call back.
    - Linn
      - Similar to Dallas
      - Hard to use LEA due to nomenclature and reliability
        - Map needed
    - Carroll
      - VHF ops network to start
      - Use Law Aid (VLAW31 or LEA)
      - Issues with coordinating transports if prisoner needs to use restroom.
        - VLAW used
      - MACH used to send messages upon arrival and start of return trip
      - Cell phones for voice comms
    - DMPD
      - Transports done by uniform personnel for in-state transports
      - UHF only radios in cars.

- No comms once out of DM Ops range
  - Cell phones used.
  - Non-uniformed personnel may take unmarked vehicle if they are going to just outside of state boundaries.
  - Road closure information needed.
- **Patient**
  - Very similar to prisoner transport
  - Daily transports out of county
  - Hospitals within 50 – 75 mile radius of Metro.
    - Some trips to Mayo Clinic, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha.
    - Some talks to MN about ARMER.
    - Nonfederal interop channels needed
  - Only channel that is available is VLAW 31
    - Know it works and will get them into comms centers.
  - Crapshoot if CMED frequencies will work.
  - Transport from rural hospitals to metro hospitals
    - Some high-risk patients
    - Some mental health transports
      - Deputy or officer may have to follow ambulance
    - Some due to insurance coverages
  - Road closure information needed.
- **General Travel of Public Safety Outside of Service Area**
  - Training trips, meetings, conferences
  - Sometimes going to pick up a prisoner on a warrant
  - Could increase situational awareness of developing events
    - Previously dispatch centers had to rely on MACH and relay that to officers
  - Ambush scenario if they are in marked unit
- **How are you going to maintain contact outside home jurisdiction?**

**Objective 2: Cover the new ISICS/County fleet map and if this is adequate to cover the communications needs of prisoner transport.**

- **Fleet**
  - **Regional/Iowa Calling 1**
  - **Regional/Iowa Tac2**
  - **Regional/Iowa Tac 3**
  - **Regional/Iowa TAC 4**
  - **Regional/Iowa TAC 5**
  - **Regional/Iowa TAC 6**
  - **Regional/Iowa TAC 7E**
  - **Regional/Iowa TAC 8E**

- **Regional/Iowa LAW 9E**
- **Local Dispatch Calling Talk Group?**
  - Could this be used for calling in instances in which a PS person arrives on scene of an unreported accident?
    - Affiliated tower and surrounding towers.
- ~~Regional/Iowa Prisoner?~~
- ~~Regional/Iowa Medical?~~
- **Desire for talk local ops talk group to travel with deputy or ambulance and only light up home tower/console**
  - **Level 2 and above user?**
  - **Are there enough resources on any network for that?**
  - **Would a cell phone be better served for this type of 1 to 1 communication?**
- **How are we going to adapt?**
  - Desire for consolidation or change of use of legacy interop channels. Do we tie these into patches to newer networks?
    - MICS – DSM Metro interoperability
      - Tired/distracted drivers
    - LEA
  - Needs to be some consideration to bands used for calling (conventional V/7/8).
    - Does everyone need that?
      - What about personnel coming in from out of state?
    - Should it be regionalized?
    - Consolidate down to two conventional – VHF and 800
      - VCALL10 and 8CALL90
      - Could be on existing tower or at PSAP
      - Reprogram VLAW31 to VCALL10?

## **II. Interstate Interoperability Notes – All RICs’ Notes Consolidated**

**Objective 1: How is this currently handled in RIC6—policies, procedures, networks, etc.?**

- **Minnesota – ARMER (800 MHz) P25 Phase I**
  - Each county along border should have control station, but talk groups may not be set up.
    - Not activated 24/7?
    - Contact Minnesota SWIC about that.
  - No Iowa users of 800 MHz along border
  - More EMS interactions than fire?
    - Analog channels still exist
    - Cell phones used fairly regularly
  - Coordination at dispatch levels most common via phones
    - No communication via radio.

- EMS licensure does not cover Iowa, so they must stop at border
- We don't know when their crews will show up on scene for fire/medical.
- **South Dakota – VHF**
  - Union County – Cell or landline comms for passing info
  - Lincoln County is a dark area – Need to contact Lyon County (IA) Sheriff
- **Nebraska – VHF**
  - 800 MHz trunked – Part of Omaha Power District—Douglas, Washington Co, Etc
    - TGs for Metro (example: water rescue)
  - Neb. Statewide VHF
    - May be needed for pursuit.
    - Water rescue possible use.
    - Harrison Co (IA) – conventional VHF; many agencies are migrating to tri-band devices (V/7/8)
    - Whomever is participating... i.e. If ISP is on, LEA is used.
      - Could be on local channels as well depending on participants.
    - Some instances of radios not being programmed to have all available resources in them.
    - Mutual aid channels: 8TACs & VTACs are programmed in, but unknown if repeater is near.
      - Getting more consistency in policy with inter-county\*\*
- **Tri-State P25 800 MHz (STARCOM) – Iowa/South Dakota (Union)/Nebraska (Dakota Co)**
  - All agencies in region share talk groups
    - All LE have main ops channels/TGs/TACs
    - Dispatch has main ops/TACs/TGs
  - Tri-State Interop channels that are in every radio
  - Provide every LE agency (state, county, local) with a radio programmed with LE TGs for mutual aid.
  - DNR COs have regional TGs.
  - Tri-Law Secure TG – Encrypted AES256
    - Also used for drug task force
  - Thurston & Dixon County local LE, Nebraska SP & DNR can access
  - Wayne & Cedar (Nebraska) EM has TGs
- **Wisconsin**
  - Digital VHF (P25 Phase I)
  - Possible water rescues
    - Fire, police, medical, coast guard?
  - Accidents on 151 bridge handled by Dub PD
  - Fire Dpt River rescues
  - Planned events like fireworks
  - ACU 1000 used for patching in Dub.
  - Our command trailers can get called to help
  - Frequency sharing practiced
  - Some HAZMAT

- **Illinois**

- 800 MHz STARCOM P25 Phase I statewide network
  - Moving to Phase II soon
  - Not all agencies/counties use that
    - Don't know how to use it
    - Rock Island Arsenal uses completely different system
- QC has separate radio system that is shared with everyone.
  - Primary mode of interop at this point in QCA.
- Dubuque helps a lot with disturbances
- IL will end up in Iowa as well
- Dubuque shares radios with Jo Daviess
- Jo Daviess may have just changed radios, so they aren't looking at doing much now.
- Gateway may be best practice
- Some ladder truck agreements – radios required in this scenario.
  - Limited to City-to-City
- MABAS (alarm system)
  - Bordering fire depts are on that
  - Few IA depts are on that.
- Train derailments
  - Short duration response
- Maquoket Caves in 2012
  - Search and rescue in caves
  - USAR came in and assisted
    - 23 hour response
  - MABAS units from IL came to assist
- Wide area exercises
- Some struggles with communicating with IL DNR
- Coast Guard will patch in with Rock Island Arsenal.
  - Prearranged agreements
- Initial hesitation with instituting agreements
- Illinois is in a different FEMA region
- Burlington, IA Fire is part of their system. (MABAS)
  - They have communicated well in the past.
  - Difficulty in speaking to ambulances.
- Difficult time reaching out to Henderson County (IL)
- Level of engagement for planning varies from county-to-county
- IL doesn't have E-911...
  - Perhaps close to Missouri in some aspects pertaining to initiation of response.

- **Missouri:**

- VHF
- Northern MO Fire Departments are a bit behind on radio networks.
  - Some will use HAM Radio bands.

- Large disparity among departments.
    - Kirksville, MO may be closest relative to us.
  - Regionalized fire departments in MO.
    - Fire Dept hub may be tens of miles away.
    - Service by subscription
      - Tax revenues are slim.
  - Behind on technology.
  - Lots of mutual aid with fire—local channels used most often
  - LE is difficult with chases coming into Iowa... Normally use mutual aid LE
    - Dispatchers on phones IF VLAWE doesn't work.
    - Not sure on how far in our LEOs can go into MO. Chase could be turned over relatively quickly.
  - Fire will go into MO about 30 miles. Can go further upon request.
    - Fire mutual aid channels
  - Regional dive team goes pretty far into MO.
  - Local fire has some of the fire districts programmed in to radios – ops channels
  - Digital to analog problems... repeating issues...
  - Works Ok for the most part, but there are breakdowns.
  -
- **Other Entities**
  - Federal/Coast Guard/Rail lines
    - Out in own world (rail lines)
      - Concern of how to handle all the local frequencies
      - Very protective of their own resources.
      - Good in face-to-face situations.
      - Communications with their dispatches is not always stellar (based in TX)
        - Language gap.
        - Some representatives in Iowa?
          - Galesburg, IL or Burlington, IA?
      - Comfortable being a partner in the EOC.
      - Our HAZMAT team was there, but UP wanted their HAZMAT team to contain the situation for liability reasons.
      - Around 50-80 trains per day in a county.
        - Freight, coal, AMTRAK, etc
      - BNSF has an office/rail yard in Fort Madison.
      - BNSF works well with local responders for the most part.
      - AMTRAK only owns cars. They lease everything else.
    - Coast Guard contact via dispatch
      - Burlington, IA Fire can probably talk to them at this point as well.
        - VHF marine band radio is needed to talk to them.
      - Don't do search and rescue.
        - They will contact locals for search and rescue.
      - 17 high level sites.

- Connected via hard lines for radio comms
  - RESCUE 21 – just put up main site and repeater
- **Other Channels—Not always known if repeater is near-by.**
  - 8CALL90
  - 8TAC91
  - VCALL10
  - 8TAC92
  - 8TAC93
  - VTAC/UTAC/7TAC/8TAC Directs
  - VLAW31 not overly prevalent with repeaters, but direct comms it is used.
  - LEA is used by dispatch to reach ISP and for high speed pursuits
    - LEA is currently too unreliable to use over a wide area
  - Patching is common place for channels
  - Woodbury Co (Woodbury VHF Interop) has some county interop channels that other counties have access to... far east tower/ATT Tower/Homer Tower/West Tower
    - South Dakota Air National Guard used this extensively
  - Sioux City ANG (185<sup>th</sup>) has signed on to ISICS and has Woodbury Co TGs
- **Iowa**
  - VLAW31 used for most communications among Iowa counties
    - VCALL10 instead? -- Programming issue – Training issue?
  - Iowa also uses VFIRE/State Fire
  - Question of how quickly counties can jump on ISICS.
  - Our people routinely travel up to the I-90 corridor in Minnesota.
  - Our K9 units will go about 50 miles into Minnesota (Owatonna)
  - Cross-border chases are tough if we pursue in, we will continue, and they will join
    - VLAW used and patching used so their officers can talk to us
  - Our medical units will go into Minnesota and use VLAW31
    - Direct comms with the hospitals
  - Conventional VHF
    - Local and federal/non-federal channels
    - Fire paging
  - Counties under SARA agreement (Harris P25 systems built by RACOM)
  - ISICS
  - Point to Point (Hit or miss in parts of state)
  - ~~LEA~~
- Do other PSAPs/Dispatch Centers have the ability to patch?

**Objective 2: Cover the new ISICS/County fleet map and if this is adequate to cover the communications needs of interstate interoperability.**

**How are we going to adapt?**

- County/Regional Networks have interoperable talk groups that are shared with neighbors
  - Many of these are pending

- ISICS
  - R6 Call 1
  - R6 GTAC 2
  - R6 GTAC 3
  - R6 TAC 4
  - R6 TAC 5
  - R6 TAC 6
  - R6 ETAC 7
  - R6 ETAC 8
  - R6 ETAC 9
  - R6 Interstate?
  - We need to add some plain language to this if possible
  - NWS talk group?
    - Encrypted?
    - EM only? Include PSAP?
    - Critical, time sensitive information.
- Training to the nth degree
  - Cache of train the trainers
  - Region-wide trainers
  - Dispatcher exclusive training
- Table top exercises
- Consistent flow of hierarchy to make training successful – buy in
- RIC-Level support
- Separate Interstate Regional Talk Group Set
  - Interstate CALL 1 for help
  - Interstate TAC 2 for ops/TAC
  - Geofenced
- Common Non-federal interop channels programmed into radios
- **What we currently know.**
  - We need to keep this simple.
  - We cannot assume that all agencies will be able to upgrade equipment.
  - Need more educational opportunities.
  - If STARCOM initiates chase, people migrate to STARCOM
    - Main ops move to a different TG
  - Initially counties in Iowa will likely access ISICS via dispatch and patching
  - For Fire & HAZMAT, direct comms are normally used.
    - Move dispatch/central comms concept to scene
  - SC Fire is regional HAZMAT
    - Used to only have 800 MHz.
    - Now linked to VHF simplex
    - Just purchased dual-band radios (VHF/7-8)
      - Local VHF will be programmed into those radios



- Emergency button programmed to local Ops now...
  - Purpose of a calling channel/TG is to have someone hear it. Regional TGs present the opportunity to get that out quickly, BUT will dispatchers be able to monitor and dispatch for one more TG in addition to their other duties—warrants, data entry, jail calls, officer reports, etc. Also, do we need to geofence it?
  - Perhaps the Regional Calling goes to State Dispatch, who then uses the new PTP to hail local and county.
- How could something like this work going forward?
  - Need to increase participation
  - Need to demonstrate coverages with ISICS network
  - Incorporation of STR trailer in certain scenarios
  - Bordering counties with Minnesota
    - Follow-up with Minnesota SWIC and Iowa/MN counties on feasibility of multiple radios and/or TG programming
    - Dispatch patching?
  - Bordering counties with Nebraska
    - Talk group programming
    - Patching via dispatch
  - South Dakota
    - Dispatch patching
    - Talk group programming
  - Develop trust with public safety agencies
    - Shared talk groups/frequencies
    - Sharing basic operability talk groups/frequencies
  - State Radio needs to start sharing what their vision is for ops.
  - Consider work around with rivers
  - TGs may need to have suggested use practices.
  - May need to discuss programming and/or operational practices?
  - Desire for local EOC planning. Responding agencies follow that plan for large scale emergencies.
  -